

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

FINANCIAL REPORT WITH
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended December 31, 2008

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	2-4
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Statement of Net Assets	5
Government-wide Statement of Activities	6
Fund Financial Statements:	
Governmental Fund:	
Balance Sheet	7
Reconciliation of Balance Sheet of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Net Assets	8
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	9
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities	10
Notes to Financial Statements	11-15
Required Supplemental Information:	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund	16

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

February 13, 2009

To the Fire Board
Hamilton Fire Department
Allegan County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Hamilton Fire Department, Allegan County, Michigan as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Fire Department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Hamilton Fire Department's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Hamilton Fire Department, Allegan County, Michigan as of December 31, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information listed in the table of contents are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management, regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C.

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the year ended December 31, 2008

This section of the Hamilton Fire Department's annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of the fire departments financial performance during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. Please read it in conjunction with the financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our financial status remained stable over the last year. Total net assets at December 31, 2008, totaled \$312,551.28 for governmental activities. Of this total, \$297,693.30 represents capital assets net of depreciation.

Overall revenues were \$273,996.41.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of three parts, management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two different kinds of statements that present different views of the Fire Department.

The first two statements are entity-wide financial statements and provide both long and short-term information about our overall financial status. These statements present the fire department's governmental activities.

The remaining statements are fund financial statements, which focus on individual parts of the fire department in more detail.

The notes to the financial statements explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data.

Required supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statement information with budgetary comparisons.

ENTITY-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The entity-wide statements report information about the entity as a whole using accounting methods used by private companies. The statement of net assets includes all of the entity's assets and liabilities. The statement of activities records all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when received or paid.

The two entity-wide statements report net assets and how they have changed. Net assets are the difference between the entity's assets and liabilities and this is one method to measure the entity's financial health or position.

Over time increases/decreases in the entity's net assets are an indicator of whether financial position is improving or deteriorating.

To assess overall health of the entity you may also have to consider additional factors such as tax base changes, facility conditions and personnel changes.

All of the activities of the fire department are reported as governmental activities.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS- ENTITY-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION
December 31, 2008

	<u>Total</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u> <u>2008</u>
Current Assets	34 412	137 278
Capital Assets	<u>320 359</u>	<u>297 693</u>
Total Assets	<u>354 771</u>	<u>434 971</u>
Current Liabilities	19 554	122 420
Non-current Liabilities	<u>51 851</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>71 405</u>	<u>122 420</u>
Net Assets:		
Invested in Capital		
Assets	268 508	297 693
Unrestricted	<u>14 858</u>	<u>14 858</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>283 366</u></u>	<u><u>312 551</u></u>

	<u>Total</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Activities</u> <u>2008</u>
Program Revenues:		
Charges for Services	227 579	273 770
General Revenues:		
Interest	177	149
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	<u>77</u>
Total Revenues	<u>227 756</u>	<u>273 996</u>
Program Expenses:		
Public Safety	228 221	244 811
Interest on Long-Term Debt	<u>3 262</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>231 483</u>	<u>244 811</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(3 727)	29 185
Net Assets, January 1	<u>287 093</u>	<u>283 366</u>
Net Assets, December 31	<u><u>283 366</u></u>	<u><u>312 551</u></u>

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the year ended December 31, 2008

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the fire department's funds, focusing on significant (major) funds not the department as a whole. Funds are used to account for specific activities or funding sources. Some funds are required by law or bond covenants. The Fire Board also may create them. Funds are established to account for funding and spending of specific financial resources and to show proper expenditures of those resources.

The fire department has the following types of funds:

Governmental Funds: All of the fire department's activities are included in the governmental fund category. These funds are presented on the modified accrual basis, which is designed to show short-term financial information. You will note that the differences between the fire department's government-wide statements and the fund statements are disclosed in reconciling statements to explain the differences between them.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE

Net Assets: The Fire Department's combined net assets increased by \$29,185.26 during the year ended December 31, 2008, totaling \$312,551.28.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FUNDS

General Fund: This fund is used to record all activities of the fire department not to be recorded in a separate fund. The major source of revenue for the general fund is from local entities.

CAPITAL ASSET AND LONG-TERM DEBT ACTIVITY

The Fire Department's governmental activities invested \$11,985.00 in capital assets.

The Fire Department paid \$51,851.20 of principal on long-term debt.

KNOWN FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE OPERATIONS

The Fire Department plans for the future include replacing existing equipment as it wears out. Plans are in the discussion stage.

CONTACTING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our taxpayers, creditors, and customers with a general overview of the fire department's finances and to demonstrate the fire departments accountability for the revenues it receives. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the fire department Chief, Assistant Chief, or Secretary-Treasurer by calling 269-751-2403 during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2008

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash in bank	<u>137 277 75</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>137 277 75</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:	
Capital Assets	711 598 75
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(413 905 45)</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>297 693 30</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>434 971 05</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	
LIABILITIES:	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Due to other units	118 169 77
Deferred revenue	<u>4 250 00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>122 419 77</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>
Total Non-current Liabilities	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>122 419 77</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	297 693 30
Unrestricted	<u>14 857 98</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>312 551 28</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>434 971 05</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended December 31, 2008

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenue</u>	<u>Governmental Activities Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets</u>
FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS			
Governmental Activities:			
Public safety	244 811 15	273 769 78	28 958 63
Interest on long-term debt	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>244 811 15</u>	<u>273 769 78</u>	<u>28 958 63</u>
General Revenues:			
Interest			149 63
Miscellaneous			<u>77 00</u>
Total General Revenues			<u>226 63</u>
Change in net assets			29 185 26
Net assets, beginning of year			<u>283 366 02</u>
Net Assets, End of Year			<u>312 551 28</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUND
December 31, 2008

	<u>Total (General)</u>
<u>Assets</u>	
Cash in bank	<u>137 277 75</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>137 277 75</u></u>
<u>Liabilities and Fund Equity</u>	
Liabilities:	
Due to other units	118 169 77
Deferred revenue	<u>4 250 00</u>
Total liabilities	<u>122 419 77</u>
Fund equity:	
Unreserved:	
Undesignated	<u>14 857 98</u>
Total fund equity	<u>14 857 98</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u><u>137 277 75</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

RECONCILIATION OF BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
December 31, 2008

TOTAL FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	14 857 98
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because –	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet:	
Capital assets at cost	711 598 75
Accumulated depreciation	(413 905 45)
Long-term debt liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds	<u>-</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS – GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>312 551 28</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE –
GOVERNMENTAL FUND

Year ended December 31, 2008

	<u>Total (General)</u>
Revenues:	
Fire protection fees	273 769 78
Interest	149 63
Miscellaneous	<u>77 00</u>
Total revenues	<u>273 996 41</u>
Expenditures:	
Public safety:	
Fire protection:	
Wages	103 694 00
Payroll taxes	7 932 62
Insurance	19 246 00
Audit	1 800 00
Repairs and maintenance	30 963 55
Vehicle gas and oil	4 129 02
Supplies	23 300 14
Education and training	6 737 40
Telephone	1 070 97
Utilities	8 027 41
Miscellaneous	3 259 10
Capital outlay	11 985 00
Debt service	<u>51 851 20</u>
Total expenditures	<u>273 996 41</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	-
Fund balance, January 1	<u>14 857 98</u>
Fund Balance, December 31	<u><u>14 857 98</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2008

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE – TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND -

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures; in the Statement of Activities,
these costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation

Depreciation Expense	(34 650 94)
Capital Outlay	11 985 00

Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, the
repayment does not have an effect in the statement of activities but does
reduce the debt balance in the statement of net assets.

Principal payments on long-term debt	<u>51 851 20</u>
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>29 185 26</u></u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2008

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Hamilton Fire Department, Allegan County, Michigan, conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the Fire Department contain all the Fire Department funds that are controlled by or dependent on the Fire Department's executive or legislative branches.

The Fire Department was organized in 1994 and includes the Townships of Heath, Manilus and Fillmore. The Department is governed by a Board consisting of nine members. The Fire Department provides fire protection services to the local units and is considered a separate reporting entity.

The reporting entity is the Hamilton Fire Department. The Fire Department is governed by an elected Fire Board. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the Fire Department as the primary government.

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements, (the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. All the Fire Department's government-wide activities are considered governmental activities.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include: (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function; and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes, intergovernmental payments and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported as general revenue.

Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available, restricted resources are applied first.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. Revenue is considered to be available if it is collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures relating to compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2008

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (continued)

The Fire Department reports only one fund as follows:

- The General Fund is used to record the operations of the Fire Department which pertain to maintaining and operating the Fire Department. Included are all transactions related to the approved current operating budget.

Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity

Bank deposits and investments – Cash and cash equivalent investments include cash on hand, demand deposits, certificates of deposit and short-term investments with a maturity of three months or less when acquired. Investments are stated at fair value.

Receivables

Receivables have been recognized for all significant amounts due to the Fire Department. Allowances for uncollectible accounts have not been provided for in that collection is not considered doubtful and any uncollected amount would be immaterial.

Inventories

Inventories of supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recorded.

Encumbrances

Encumbrances involving the current recognition of purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for future expenditures are not recorded.

Capital Assets

Capital assets are defined by the Fire Department as assets with an initial cost of more than \$5,000.00 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Vehicles	20 years
Equipment	5-10 years

Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

Employees are not allowed to accumulate vacation and sick pay and therefore no accumulated amount is recorded in the financial statements.

Post-employment Benefits

The Fire Department provides no post-employment benefits to past employees.

Fund Equity

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2008

Note 2 – Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in these financial statements:

1. Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the proposed budget for each budgetary fund is submitted to the Fire Board for consideration.
2. The proposed budgets include expenditures as well as the methods of financing them.
3. Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments.
4. The budgets are adopted at the activity level by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
5. The budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting.
6. The originally adopted budgets can be amended during the year only by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
7. The adopted budgets are used as a management control device during the year for all budgetary funds.
8. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
9. The budgeted amounts shown in these financial statements are the originally adopted budgets with all amendments that were approved by the Fire Board during the fiscal year.

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Fire Department to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; banker's acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

The Fire Board has designated one bank for the deposit of Fire Department funds. The investment policy adopted by the board in accordance with Public Act 196 of 1997 has authorized investment in all investments authorized by state law as listed above.

The Fire Department's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, risk disclosures for the cash deposits are as follows:

	Carrying Amounts
Total Deposits	<u>137 277 75</u>

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2008

Note 3 – Deposits and Investments (continued)

Amounts in the bank balances are without considering deposits in transit or uncleared checks.

	<u>Bank Balances</u>
Insured (FDIC)	140 901 93
Uninsured and Uncollateralized	-
Total Deposits	<u>140 901 93</u>

The Fire Department did not have any investments as of December 31, 2008.

Disclosures Relating to Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. One of the ways that the Fire Department manages its exposure to interest rate risk is by participating in financial institution pooled funds and in mutual funds which hold diverse investments that are authorized by law for direct investments.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The financial institution pooled funds and the mutual funds do not have a rating provided by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

The investment policy of the Fire Department contains no limitations on the amount that can be invested in any one issuer beyond that stipulated by Michigan law.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Michigan law and the Fire Department's investment policy do not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for deposits.

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. Michigan law and the Fire Department's investment policy do not contain legal or policy requirements that would limit the exposure to custodial credit risk for investments. With respect to investment, custodial credit risk generally applies only to direct investments in marketable securities. Custodial credit risk does not apply to a local government's indirect investment in securities through the use of mutual funds or government investment pools.

Note 4 – Capital Assets

Capital asset activity of the Fire Department's Governmental activities for the current year was as follows:

	<u>Balance 1/1/08</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/08</u>
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Equipment	699 613 75	11 985 00	-	711 598 75
Total	699 613 75	11 985 00	-	711 598 75
Accumulated Depreciation	(379 254 51)	(34 650 94)	-	(413 905 45)
Net Capital Assets	<u>320 359 24</u>	<u>(22 665 94)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>297 693 30</u>

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2008

Note 5 – Changes in Long-Term Debt

A summary of changes in long-term debt follows:

	Balance 1/1/08	Additions	Deductions	Balance 12/31/08
Note payable – bank – 1999	11 646 63	-	11 646 63	-
Note payable – bank – 2000	14 182 25	-	14 182 25	-
Note payable – bank – 2004	26 022 32	-	26 022 32	-
Total	51 851 20	-	51 851 20	-

Note 6 – Note Payable – Bank – 1999

On April 21, 1999, the Fire Department obtained a loan from Monroe Bank and Trust in the amount of \$134,893.84 for the purpose of funding the acquisition of a new rescue vehicle. The note required ten annual payments of \$17,154.81 including interest at the rate of 4.56% per annum. The note was paid off during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

Note 7 – Note Payable – Bank – 2000

On October 9, 2000, the Fire Department obtained a loan from Monroe Bank and Trust in the amount of \$120,003.00 for the purpose of funding the acquisition of a new fire truck. The note required ten annual payments of \$12,000.30 including interest at the rate of 5.75% per annum. The note was paid off during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

Note 8 – Note Payable – Bank – 2004

On April 9, 2004, the Fire Department obtained a loan from Huntington Bank in the amount of \$153,430.71 for the purpose of funding the acquisition of a new fire truck. The note required five annual payments of \$19,893.02 including interest at the rate of 4.95% per annum plus a balloon payment of \$105,916.98. The note was paid off during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

Note 9 – Deferred Compensation Plan

The Fire Department does not have a deferred compensation plan.

Note 10 – Pension Plan

The Fire Department does not have a pension plan.

Note 11 – Risk Management

The Fire Department is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors, omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Fire Department has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, torts and workers' compensation claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Allegan County, Michigan

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE – GENERAL FUND
Year ended December 31, 2008

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Over (Under)
Revenues:				
Fire protection fees	283 710 00	335 710 00	273 769 78	(61 940 22)
Interest	100 00	100 00	149 63	49 63
Miscellaneous	-	4 250 00	77 00	(4 173 00)
Total revenues	<u>283 810 00</u>	<u>340 060 00</u>	<u>273 996 41</u>	<u>(66 063 59)</u>
Expenditures:				
Public safety:				
Fire protection	219 260 00	230 930 00	210 160 21	(20 769 79)
Capital outlay	37 550 00	39 000 00	11 985 00	(27 015 00)
Debt service	<u>27 000 00</u>	<u>52 000 00</u>	<u>51 851 20</u>	<u>(148 80)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>283 810 00</u>	<u>321 930 00</u>	<u>273 996 41</u>	<u>(47 933 59)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	-	18 130 00	-	(18 130 00)
Fund balance, January 1	-	-	14 857 98	14 857 98
Fund Balance, December 31	<u>-</u>	<u>18 130 00</u>	<u>14 857 98</u>	<u>(3 272 02)</u>

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AUDIT COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

February 13, 2009

To the Fire Board
Hamilton Fire Department
Allegan County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the Hamilton Fire Department for the year ended December 31, 2008. As required by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the independent auditor is required to make several communications to the governing body having oversight responsibility for the audit. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with additional information regarding the scope and results of our audit that may assist you with your oversight responsibilities of the financial reporting process for which management is responsible.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES

We conducted our audit of the financial statements of the Hamilton Fire Department in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. The following paragraph explains our responsibilities under those standards.

Management has the responsibility for adopting sound accounting policies, for maintaining an adequate and effective system of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for devising an internal control structure that will, among other things, help assure the proper recording of transactions. The transactions that should be reflected in the accounts and in the financial statements are matters within the direct knowledge and control of management. Our knowledge of such transactions is limited to that acquired through our audit. Accordingly, the fairness of representations made through the financial statements is an implicit and integral part of management's accounts and records. However, our responsibility for the financial statements is confined to the expression of an opinion on them. The financial statements remain the responsibility of management.

The concept of materiality is inherent in the work of an independent auditor. An auditor places greater emphasis on those items that have, on a relative basis, more importance to the financial statements and greater possibilities of material error than those items of lesser importance or those in which the possibility of material error is remote.

For this purpose, materiality has been defined as "the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement."

An independent auditor's objective in an audit is to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to provide a reasonable basis for forming an opinion on the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor must work within economic limits; the opinion, to be economically useful, must be formed within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost. That is why an auditor's work is based on selected tests rather than an attempt to verify all transactions. Since evidence is examined on a test basis only, an audit provides only reasonable assurance, rather than absolute assurance, that financial statements are free of material misstatement. Thus, there is a risk that audited financial statements may contain undiscovered material errors or fraud. The existence of that risk is implicit in the phrase in the audit report, "in our opinion."

To the Fire Board
Hamilton Fire Department
Allegan County, Michigan

In the audit process, we gain an understanding of the internal control structure of an entity for the purpose of assisting in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit testing. Our understanding is obtained by inquiry of management, testing transactions, and observation and review of documents and records. The amount of work done is not sufficient to provide a basis for an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Auditing standards call for us to inform you of other significant issues such as, but not limited to, 1) Accounting estimates that are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements or because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments; 2) Significant audit adjustments that may not have been detected except through the auditing procedures we performed; 3) Disagreements with management regarding the scope of the audit or application of accounting principles; 4) Consultation with other accountants; 5) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention; and 6) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

We have no significant issues, regarding these matters, to report to you at this time. Audit adjustments were minimal, and are available to review.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROLS/ COMPLIANCE/ EFFICIENCY

Our procedures disclosed the following conditions that we would like to bring to your attention:

SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

The Fire Department's system of internal control is affected by the size of the staff that it can employ.

The ultimate accounting system would include enough employees to completely segregate all aspects of each transaction. Different departments or individuals would handle: transaction authorization, transaction execution, asset handling, recording of transactions, review of transactions and subsequent control of assets.

The Fire Department cannot enact a complete segregation of all aspects of each transaction due to the nature of local units of government. The "cost to benefit" relationship also would not justify a complete segregation of all duties.

We recommend that the Fire Board Members understand these circumstances when performing their oversight responsibilities.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests to be applied in our audit of the Fire Department's financial statements and this communication of these matters does not affect our report on the Fire Department's financial statements, dated December 31, 2008.

SUMMARY

We welcome any questions you may have regarding the foregoing comments and we would be happy to discuss any of these or other questions that you might have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Campbell, Kusterer & Co., P.C.
CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.
Certified Public Accountants